

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00467 211546Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 SSM-05
(ISO) W

-----102534 211627Z /14

O 211410Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6569
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USDEL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USIA WASHDC
USUN 773

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0467

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, SY, EG, IS, US
SUBJ: SYRIAN PRESS BEFUDDLED IN PORTRAYING SADAT'S LATEST MOVES

1. SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUED TO HEDGE ITS BETS ON THE MEANING
OF SADAT'S DECISION TO RAFALL FONMIN KAMAL FROM THE
JERUSALEM TALKS AND ON THE LIKELY OUTCOME OF THIS DECISION.
THAWRA, THE SOLE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED SATURDAY, HEADLINED:
"THE CRISIS BETWEEN SADAT AND GEGIN IS TRANSIENT AND THE
DOOR IS OPEN TO A SEPARATE SOLUTION", LEAD PARAGRAPH
CHARACTERIZED HIS MOVE AS "GAME AIMED AT HIGHLIGHTING
THE U.S. ROLE AND REALIZING A SEPARATE DEAL".

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00467 211546Z

2. HOWEVER, CONTRADICTIONS IN PRESS TREATMENT ABOUND
AS THEY HAVE FOR THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS IN THE VIEWS
SYRIANS ARE READING AS EXPLANATIONS OF SUSPENSIONS OF THE TALKS.
THIS IS EVIDENCED BY RAFIQ ATASSI'S LEAD EDITORIAL
IN "HUMILIATION AND FAILURE". CLAIMING THIS PROVED
THE PROBLEM WAS MOSTLY PSYCHOLOGICAL, HE ASSERTED
THAT "THE POLICY OF CONCESSIONS HAD NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT

TO REALIZE ITS AIM, EVEN IF IT WAS THE SIGNING OF A SEPARATE PEACE AGREEMENT. FINALLY, ATASSI HOLDS OUT NO HOPE OF MERCY FOR SADAT, PROCLAIMING THAT: "HIS DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE WILL NOT DO HIM ANY GOOD...AND THE CHIMERA OF PRESSURE FROM THE AMERICAN GODFATHER WILL NOT HELP HIM. THE GAME IS OVER... THE ARAB PEOPLE OF EGYPT WILL TEACH IM AN UNFORGETTABLE LESSON."

3. SECOND THAWRA EDITORIAL DIRECTLY UNDERNEATH ATASSI'S TOOK THE POSITION THAT THESE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WERE CONTRIVED TO EXTRICATE SADAT FROM HIS ISOLATION AND THAT THE U.S. WOULD PALY THE ROLE OF "SAVIOR". WRITER CLAIMED THAT THE "ROAD IS NOW OPEN FOR A PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL."

4. NEWS COMENTARY ON THE TALKS IN THAWRA IS SOMEWHAT MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND DISPASSIONATE IN SPECULATING ON ITS MEANING. WRITER POSTULATES THREE POSSIBLE MOTIVES WHICH SEPARATELY OR IN COMBINATION COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SADAT'S DECISION INCLUDING:

A. EITHER THE U.S. OR ISRAEL RENEGED ON ITS PROMISE OF WHAT IT WOULD DO IN RETURN FOR HIS JERUSALEM VISIT.
B. THERE COULD BE PRIOR AGREEMENT AMONG THE THREE PARTICIPANTS TO CONTRIVE DIFFERENCES IN ORDER TO PERMIT A SETTLEMENT WHICH CONTRADICTS INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS AND THE DEMANDS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 00467 211546Z

C. THE PRESSURE OF THE EGYPTIAN MASSES ON SADAT MADE HIM TAKE THIS DECISION WITH THE AIM OF BLUNTING THEIR ANGER AND CREATING CONFUSION.
WRITER CONCLUDED THAT, WHILE EITHER SADAT OR BEGIN MAY ATTEMPT TO RESIGN (WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES REFUSING TO ACCEPT THEM), MOST LIKELY SCENARIO IS FOR THE U.S. TO CONVENE A TRI-PARTITE SUMMIT. PREDICTION MADE THAT IN ANY CASE RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE PROLONGED AND CHARACTERIZED BY INTENSE DIFFERENCES.
MURPHY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL RECALL, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAMASC00467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780033-0037
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780137/aaaabfdq.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 890e25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3735363
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN PRESS BEFUDDLED IN PORTRAYING SADAT'S LATEST MOVES
TAGS: SOPN, PGOV, SY, EG, IS, US, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/890e25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014